

The Office Action objects to the Declaration under 37 C.F.R §1.131 previously submitted with Applicants' September 11, 2006 Amendment. The Office Action asserts (1) that the signatures of all of the inventors of the subject matter of claim 1 are required and (2) that the previously submitted Declaration does contain sufficient specificity with regard to the claimed features. Without conceding the Examiner's assertions or interpretations of the relevant statutory or regulatory requirements, and solely in an effort to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants' voluntarily submit the attached Declarations as further evidence of conception and reduction to practice of the claimed subject matter.

Formanek has a U.S. filing date of July 13, 2001. The attached Declarations under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 establish that the subject matter of claims 1, 3-16, and 18-28 was conceived by the named inventors and reduced to practice prior to July 13, 2001. Accordingly, Formanek does not qualify as prior art against the pending claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-13, 16 and 18-28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JEG/scg

Date: April 18, 2007

Attachments:

Declaration of William C. Janssen, Jr.
Declaration of Thomas M. Breuel
Declaration of Henry S. Baird
Declaration of Ashoh C. Popat
Declaration of Dan S. Bloomberg
Petition for Two-Month Extension of Time

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